No. 16

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY Washington, DC, 24 March 1971

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR







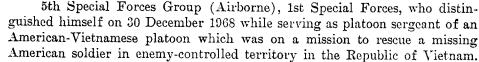




By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1963, act of 9 July 1918, and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:

First Lieutenant (then Sergeant First Class) Robert L. Howard,





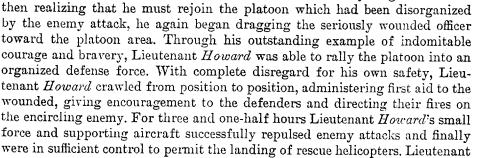
The platoon had left its helicopter landing zone and was moving out on its mission when it was attacked by an estimated two-company force. During the initial engagement, Lieutenant Howard was wounded and his weapon destroyed by a grenade explosion. Lieutenant Howard saw that his platoon leader had been wounded seriously and was exposed to enemy fire. Although unable to walk and weaponless, Lieutenant Howard unhesitatingly crawled through a hail of fire to retrieve his wounded leader. As Lieutenant Howard was administering first aid and removing the officer's equipment, an enemy bullet struck one of the ammunition pouches on the lieutenant's belt, detonating several magazines of ammunition. Lieutenant Howard momentarily sought cover and





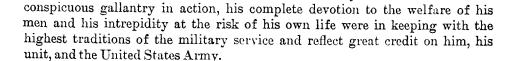












Howard personally supervised the loading of his men and did not leave the bullet-swept landing zone until all were aboard safely. Lieutenant Howard's











By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

W. C. WESTMORELAND, General, United States Army, Chief of Staff.

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM, Major General, United States Army, The Adjutant General.

Distribution:

To be distributed in accordance with DA Form 12-4 requirements.